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President
Maspeth, N. Y.

ALBERT E. SHOLES, Sec'y and Treas.
87 Locust Street, Flushing, N. Y.

Occupation of New Bern --- March 1862

HEADQUARTERS

Memorial and Executive Committee

Grand Army of the Republic

Department of New York
Queens County

State Armory, Broadway
Flushing, N. Y., June 8th 1926.

Mr. Herbert Putnam,
Librarian of Congress,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Sir:

I have herewith filled out your record of most of my publications in the South from 1876- to 1900 and also my Northern ones 1901-1903. In 1904 I purchased the Flushing Daily Times and was its Editor and Proprietor until May 1, 1919, exactly fifteen years, when I retired from active business.

As I understand you, that this is to be filed with, or in, the Grant Centenary Volume, to be preserved after I shall have gone to join the great majority, I am disposed to place here a brief statement of an incident of my earlier life not connected with business, but with service which I am proud to be identified with. In 1862, as a sergeant of the 4th R.I. Inf. Col. Isaac T. Rodman placed me in command of 52 men from the regiment to serve as marines on the gunboat Commodore Barney. I held that command from Roanoke Island until after the Battle of New Berne. At this battle, while Gen. Burnside with his army was defeating the enemy 12 miles below the City, the fleet, under Admiral Goldsborough was pushing its way up the Neuse River dodging bombs and barges laden with burning cotton, the "Barney", Lt. Commander Renfrew in command, in the lead, We saw the smoke of newly started fires bursting forth in various parts of the City and a big blaze in the center of the City, and shortly a body of confederate soldiers retreating across the railroad bridge setting fire to the bridge as they reached the farther side. We of the Barney reached the pier an hour ahead of the nearest boat and immediately my men were on shore and, followed by a mass of people, black and white, we ran to the main street where we could see the City Hotel in flames. Meanwhile I had secured an axe with which an engine house was opened, and the engine rushed

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c. G. 13 Aug. 1926

Copy made at L.C.
12 Aug. 1926

original letter mounted at end of
"Grant centenary volume, 1822-1922"

JAMES SMITH, President
75 Firth Ave. Maspeth, N. Y.

ALBERT E. SHOLES, Sec'y and Treas
87 Locust Street, Flushing, N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS
Memorial and Executive Committee
Grand Army of the Republic
Department of New York
Queens County

State Armory, Broadway
Flushing, N. Y., _____ 192

down and put to work at the Hotel, and I had scattered my men in twos and threes to the sundry small fires. The Hotel burned, but we saved everything else. Yet on page 28, vol. VI of the "American Reference Library", one time Prof. of History at Brown University,-Jameson has written of New Berne, "Captured and partially burned by the Union Leader Burnside, March 14, 1862".

Should the "Grant Centenary Volume" be read in the years ahead, I should like it to be read that the so called "history" which this man wrote was utterly false and that neither Burnside or any of his army were in New Berne until the morning of March 15, 1862.

Yours truly

Albert Elliot Sholes

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